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Tishman Realty & Construction Co. Inc.

AS AGENTS FOR THE PORT OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY
WORLD TRADE CENTER
666 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

(212) 582-8700

September 15, 1969

Mr. Guy F. Tozzoli
The Port of New York Authority
111 Eighth Avenue
New York, New York 10011

J-10

Re: World Trade Center - Spray-On Fireproofing

Dear Guy:

On September 11, 1969 o : Mr. Joseph Newman and the writer met with Dr. I. J. Selikoff, Director of the Environmental Science Laboratory, and his staff at Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. Selikoff has been working closely with the Department of Air Resources of New York City, headed by Mr. Austin Heller, Commissioner, regarding the hazards which exist in the application of spray-on fireproofing at the World Trade Center.

The City is very much concerned about environmental pollution by asbestos fibers, particularly in view of the fact that asbestos fiber has been proven to be injurious to the health of those people exposed to same over prolonged periods of time. As a result of this concern, I was asked to describe to Dr. Selikoff the procedure we intended to follow in conjunction with the application of the fireproofing on both exterior columns and the work within the Towers.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT PX-523

I told Dr. Selikoff that on the exterior of the Towers we would protect around each column with movable enclosures which would prevent the spray-on material from being disseminated into the air. He suggested that the enclosures be made in such a manner that when they are moved, the overspray remaining within the enclosure be contained. (When tarpaulins are used they have a tendency to flap in the air when they are moved

up or down, and the excess material shakes loose). I stated interior spray-on would proceed on enclosed floors so fallout could be contained.

Dr. Selikoff showed us some pictures showing the stack action problem existing within the shaft areas when spray-on is being applied. It was apparent that no work, during this spray-on, can be done on the floor on which the applicator is being used, and it is necessary that the floor immediately below and immediately above also be isolated since fallout will be excessive. Dr. Selikoff stated that it was extremely important, after a floor was sprayed, that the overspray be cleaned up immediately so that men working on the floor would not track the material elsewhere and inject additional fallout material into the air. I indicated to Dr. Selikoff that we would perform this clean-up as promptly as possible. He suggested that an assistant superintendent be assigned to insure that this prompt clean-up take place and that the protection requirements be adhered to. I indicated that we would make every effort to do so.

At the conclusion of the meeting Dr. Selikoff suggested that the exterior and interior control programs be actively maintained. I indicated to him that, because of the size of the exterior columns, and in view of the heat sink effect of the heavy steel plates making up both columns and spandrels, exterior column insulation was, in our opinion, unnecessary. Dr. Selikoff indicated that if you would be interested, he would be pleased to pursue this matter with the necessary authorities for a variance which would permit the elimination of exterior column fireproofing. We stated we could supply him with the data substantiating the heat sink properties applicable to the heavy exterior columns. We suggested, however, that he contact you and pursue the matter directly with you. I assured him that I would brief you on the meeting prior to his call.

At the conclusion of our discussion, Dr. Selikoff said he was very pleased at the steps we had taken in our dealings with Alcoa and DiBono. He further indicated that he anticipated that samples would be taken periodically on the job to insure that an acceptable level of asbestos fibers was not exceeded in the atmosphere surrounding the project. I assured him that he would receive every cooperation from our staff to further his

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investigation. J-10

In view of this meeting, I believe that Dr. Selikoff can be very helpful in assisting us, from a public relations point of view, particularly since Earl Ubell and others intend to make the fallout of the spray-on fireproofing work at the World Trade Center a public issue. Further, I think, if we can avoid the spray-on on the exterior columns (and use an acceptable insulator on the column covers) and could get a waiver from the Board of Standards & Appeals which would permit you to insure the building without any premium penalty, we should pursue this promptly. Our Research Department will remain available to give you whatever assistance is needed in this regard.

We have, today, met with the spray-on fireproofing contractor and developed the details of the protection program he shall be required to follow. Should the program suggested result in a modest additional cost in order to spray core shafts on weekends, we urge, as a practical matter, that this extra be favorably considered.

We share your concern that this can become a practical problem in public relations if not handled promptly as our spray-on work begins in earnest. Please let us know if we can assist you further in preventing its occurrence.

Very truly yours,

James R. Endler
Vice President

JRE/du

cc: Mr. M. P. Levy

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